

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A half-duplex communication control method in which a first device and a second device are connected to this first device by two signal lines ~~are had and~~ each of the two devices notifies the opponent device of a state as to whether ~~the self~~ each device is communicable and half-duplex communication in one-to-one correspondence is conducted, ~~characterized by being configured so that wherein~~ the first device outputs a sending request output for providing notification of a state of a communication request from the first device to the second device as a sending request signal using an open collector buffer and also turns back its sending request output inside the first device to check a communicable state as a sending request input inside the first device, ~~and also in the case that if~~ the second device is receivable with respect to the sending request signal sent from the first device, the second device outputs a sending permission output for providing notification of a communicable state from the second device to the first device as a sending permission signal using an open collector buffer and also turns back its sending permission output inside the second device to check a communicable state as a sending permission input inside the second device.

2. (currently amended): A half-duplex communication control method as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ with regard respect to time which elapses before outputting another sending request output ~~in the case of if~~ outputting sending request outputs simultaneously from two devices, time respectively varying with respect to the two devices is randomly determined by a program of a microcomputer.